

I have never thought that I would have a chance to advocate before our legislature on behalf of refugees and other community member. But here I am!

Having fled poverty, persecution, and war, refugees arrive in the United States with high hopes of building a better life for themselves and their children. I am one of these people. I am a refugee from Afghanistan so I have a first-hand experience with overcoming challenges as my family and I were learning to navigate a new culture and building a new life in Portland, OR.

Because of the intensive, on-going support refugees receive through Extended Case Management Program, thousands of people become self-sufficient and productive member of society.

ECM program is vital to thousands of families that face a staggering number of challenges with housing, transportation, employment and also experience feelings of isolation, despair, anxiety and depression. ECM program provides much needed to the most vulnerable community members-refugees.

I urge you to continue funding ECM program that would help thousands of individuals to overcome significant barriers to self-sufficiency so they can not only survive but thrive in the new home.

On behalf of all Oregon refugees and our local communities, I thank for supporting such program as Extended Case Management Program!